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Appearance of City

1. The city of Panevezys (55-44N, 24-27E), Lithuanian SSR, is smaller than Siauliai but is considered prettier and cleaner. Many trees line its streets, which have been laid out according to plan.
2. Panevezys did not suffer much destruction in the war, although the retreating Germans did destroy all factories and the electric power station. The movie house "Pasaulis", which was destroyed, has been rebuilt as a House of Culture. Some private homes on Siauliai Street which were destroyed have also been rebuilt.
3. Houses in the center of the city are mostly of brick construction; the number of wooden houses increases away from the center of town. Factories are built of red brick.
4. There are three parks in Panevezys. The city park is on Respublikos Street opposite the bank. Jaznagura (Greenhill) Park is located in the suburb of the same name and is near the river. The third park is a small square (not located) where trees and flowers were recently planted. The only monument in the city is one in the Russian soldiers' cemetery.
5. Street names appear on markers attached to the sides of houses at intersections. (Note: The Lithuanian word for street is "gatve" and usually appears on these signs as "g-rė.") Even house numbers are on one side and odd numbers on the opposite side of streets.

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6. Names and descriptions of some of Panevezys' principal streets are as follows:

- a. Respublikos Street. This is the city's main and widest street. It is paved with split, flat-surfaced stones from the Polyclinic to the Trade School. The remainder of the street is paved with cobblestones. Also located here are the local garrison, the boys' high school, the Communist Party Cabinet (across from the high school), the theater, House of Culture, movie house, hotel, and bank. Horse-drawn wagons and vehicles weighing over one ton are prohibited from traveling on this street. It is a favorite street for people taking walks in the evening and on Saturdays and Sundays. The Polyclinic is surrounded by trees.
- b. May 9th Street. This street was formerly called February 16th Street and contains most of the local shops. Trees line one side of the street, which is paved with split stones.
- c. Ramygalos Street. This is a long, wide street paved with cobblestones. On it are located the offices of the Local Executive Committee, the Finance Section, Housing Administration, and the Military Commissariat.
- d. Other important streets in Panevezys (all of which are paved with cobblestones) are Klaipedos Street; Stoties Street; Smelynes Street, on which is located the Commerce Section; Laisves Square, on which is located the Panevezys People's Court; and Povilo-Puzino Street, on which are located the Raion Komsomol Administration and the prison.

Population

7. The number of inhabitants in Panevezys has increased since 1945. After the war, many troops were garrisoned there and many Russians seeking better living conditions went to live there. The dominant non-Lithuanian nationalities in Panevezys are Russians and Jews; the Russians constituted about half the population until the (Soviet) Air Force garrison left the city. Germans in Panevezys had a difficult time since they could only work illegally in the fall on farms or in town. In June 1951, [redacted] all Germans were to be sent home.

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8. Lithuanians hate the Russians and all nationalities from the other Soviet republics. Population changes have been numerous as the result of mobilization of manpower, first during the German occupation and later by the Russians. Many people died during the war and even more have been deported to Siberia.

Housing and Restaurants

9. There is no workers' housing development in Panevezys. Workers live in either their own small houses or in government houses or apartments. Construction is of brick or wood. Foremen live under conditions similar to those of workers, though the higher officials have good homes with all conveniences. There are no restrictions on where people can live.
10. There are no inns or tea rooms in Panevezys, but there are many restaurants, bars, and cafes. Some of these include the Nemunas Restaurant on Respublikos Street, the First Class Restaurant on Laisves Square, Bar No. 1, and Snack Bar No. 8.

Medical Facilities

11. There are in Panevezys a city hospital, city polyclinic, tuberculosis sanatorium, and maternity house. Private medical treatment is available but is very expensive - 25 rubles per visit.

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12. A person can go to the polyclinic for an examination if he does not feel well and there is no fee. When a person becomes seriously ill, a physician certifies the necessity for hospitalization. There is no charge at hospitals regardless of length of stay.

Police Regulations

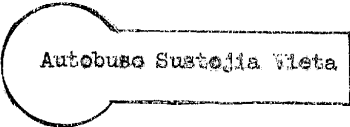
13. There are no general restrictions on movement within the city. The militia, which patrols major streets day and night, does so to insure public safety.

Railroad Facilities

14. The Panevezys railroad station is a rather small green-painted building, the entrance to which is through the west end. Inside the door is a large hall where tickets are sold at two windows by girls who are Russians. The ticket sellers' room is small. At window #1, military tickets, travel orders (sic), and railway employee duty tickets are sold. At window #2, civilian tickets are sold. One side of the station is bounded by a fence. Though not a high fence, this is guarded by the station duty officer and, when trains arrive, by policemen whose duty is to maintain order.
15. Fifteen minutes before train time, the door to the train platform is opened; entry to the platform is permitted to those holding train tickets or platform tickets, which cost one ruble. Upon the arrival of the train, people line up to await the signal of a female train guard (pravodnyke) allowing them to enter the cars. Night trains and those going long distances have reserved seats.

Local Transportation

16. There are no streetcars in Lithuania. A public bus line operates along Ramygalos Street in Panevezys. Travel within one zone costs 30 kopeks; between two zones, 60 kopeks; from one end of the line to the other, 1.2 rubles. Tickets are purchased on the bus, with the conductor stating the price. Bus stops are denoted by special signs like the one drawn below:



Autobuso Sustojia Vieta

17. There are six or seven taxicabs in Panevezys, all vehicles of Pobeda manufacture. They are identified by a checkerboard colored band around the cab body. Within city limits, taxi rates are one ruble per kilometer. Beyond city limits, the fare is four rubles per kilometer. Riders do not tip taxi drivers.

Industry and Electric Power

18. The largest industries in Panevezys are the food industry, soap industry, industrial combine, the sugar factory, the brewery, and the distillery. Factory buildings are of red brick and are in good condition.
19. Employees below the level of director and Partorg can be hired with the permission of the chief of the Personnel Section. Directors and Partorgs are chosen only from higher ranks.
20. Changing jobs is possible only with official permission. Two types of wages are paid: fixed salaries and piecework wages. Work norms are regulated by the Plan Commission.

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21. The electric power station in Panevezys was destroyed during the war and has not been rebuilt. Panevezys now receives its power from Lake Rekyava, seven kilometers south of Siauliai. Direct current is used and the amount per house is rationed. The norm for two rooms and kitchen is 15 kwh per month. If this amount is exceeded on two occasions, the power is cut off.
22. Though formerly power was available only three days a week, by June 1951 it was available every day. On some occasions, especially before holidays, there are power failures because too much current is used. Bulbs usually become fully bright immediately when turned on, but sometimes they are dim at first and become bright later. All bulbs have an "Osram" marking and are of fairly good quality.

Marketing and Blackmarketing

23. Market days in Panevezys are Mondays and Fridays; the latter is the main market day. The Russians issued orders that market day be held on Sunday only, with the apparent purpose of keeping people from church and decreasing speculating. However, the people ignored the order and still observe the regular days.
24. Farmers bringing goods to market on foot pay a fee of 3 rubles; those with wagons pay 25 rubles. Trading is usually nearly completed by 5:00 pm, and by 6:00 pm the market place is deserted. Farmers are permitted to stay in town overnight in their wagons and leave the next day.
25. There are no rationing laws in effect but quantities of food are limited. There are limits put on purchases of sugar, flour, oats, and bread. In fact, sugar and flour can be obtained only before such Bolshevik holidays as 1 May and the anniversary of the October Revolution. At such times, people wait overnight in lines to purchase 0.5 kg of sugar and 3 kg of flour. Usually there is not enough to go around.
26. A person can buy bread only for himself and not for the other members of his family. There are shortages of clothing material, buttons, and many other items.
27. There is a great discrepancy between earnings and prices; workers average about 300 rubles per month and have to pay very high prices: 60 to 80 rubles for a meter of wood, 66 rubles for canvas shoes, and very high food prices.
28. Black market operations are very prevalent in Panevezys and involve all articles not obtainable in official shops, among which items are suits, coats, silk material, buttons, leather, ribbons, shoes, rubber, pepper, bacon, etc. The chief black market operators are women, mainly the wives of guards or other factory employees.
29. There is a special section of the militia to fight the black market. They are called the "Bukaestas". These militia-men walk through the market places looking for illegal operators. Officials of the Finance Section also have the right to walk through the market places, to arrest suspects, and to turn them over to the militia.

Newspapers and Radios

30. The newspaper Panevezys Tiesa (Panevezys Truth) is published six days a week. Each issue contains two pages.

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31. Persons who have radio sets listen to them regularly. Most of the inhabitants have sets capable of receiving foreign broadcasts. Most of these sets were made in Riga and have two wave bands. Older sets which are in use have a "Philips" marking. Those persons who do not have good radio receivers make use of loudspeakers (Russians govorka) in their rooms. Programs on these are heard from 6:00 am to midnight. There is also a local radio station in Panevezys which transmits one hour daily, from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.
32. Jamming stations for foreign broadcasts are operated by the government. Listening to foreign broadcasts is not forbidden but there is trouble if one is observed doing so. The people regard newspapers and radio programs from Moscow, Vilnius, and Panevezys as organs for propaganda lies.

Telephone and Telegraph Facilities

33. Only a few local inhabitants have telephones, usually those with important positions. Most people use the public phone at the post office, where an attendant books the calls to be made.

telephone conversations are monitored before the holiday on 16 February (Lithuanian national holiday) and before Bolshevik festival days.

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34. There are no outdoor telephone booths in Panevezys. Local calls in Panevezys cost 20 kopeks.
35. There is a telegraph section at the post office. No identification is required of persons sending wires.

Entertainment

36. There are one theater and several movie houses in Panevezys. Daily performances at the movies are at 5:00, 7:00, and 9:00 pm. Occasionally there is an additional showing at 11:00 pm. Movie tickets cost from two to five rubles.
37. Also in Panevezys are a public library, a government museum, a House of Culture, and an officers' club for Air Force pilots. All cultural buildings are on Respublikos Street.

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39. Other offices located in Panevezys include a Military Commissariat, Housing Administration, Raion Komsomol Administration, a local and a State bank.

Education

40. Schools in Panevezys include the following:

- a. Lithuanian Primary Schools No. 3, No. 4, and No. 7
- b. Russian Primary School
- c. Lithuanian Boys' High School
- d. Lithuanian Girls' High School
- e. Russian High School
- f. High Schools No. 1 and No. 2 for Working Youths (night schools offering an abbreviated course of study)
- g. Teachers' College
- h. Hydromel Technical School (the only one in the Lithuanian SSR)
- i. Nurses and Midwives' School

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j. Technical School

k. Railway School

41. Applications for admission to the colleges are addressed to the director of the school concerned and must include the person's passport or other personal papers, certificates from schools already attended, and three photographs. It is very difficult to get into the Teachers' College.

Religion

42. Of four churches originally in Panevezys, only one Catholic and one Orthodox church are still open. These are the Cathedral and the Church of Saints Peter and Paul. The seminary (student) church and the church of the Marian Fathers have been closed. The former is now a grain storehouse and the latter is a military barracks.
43. The seminary church was located near the bishopric. When the church was closed, the priests, who had been living nearby, were driven from their home. Though the Holy Sacrament was taken from the church, the people continued to attend, especially in the evening, when they prayed without priests and observed the traditional May devotions by singing hymns. A petition was sent to Moscow to have the church reopened but it was rejected. The situation lasted about two months, during which time the church was always full of people to prevent its being closed. The militia arrived one day and gave orders for the people to leave. The order was ignored until a week later when the bishop had all the church furniture removed to the Cathedral.
44. Attached to the Marian Church was a monastery which had large hothouses in which the monks cultivated flowers, from the sale of which they gained their livelihood. When the monastery was first closed, though the priests and monks were driven out, they were allowed to keep the hothouses. Later, these were taken away and the church furniture was moved to the Church of Saints Peter and Paul.
45. The annual tax on the Church of Saints Peter and Paul is 63,000 rubles. On one occasion when this church had to pay 12,000 rubles by the month's end or be closed and there was only 6,000 rubles available, the congregation gave the necessary 6,000 to make up the difference so that the church would not be closed. The priests have been driven from their rectories and forced to live elsewhere, sometimes three or four kilometers from their church. For propaganda purposes, the rectories have been turned into tuberculosis sanatoriums.
46. Bishop Poltarekas of Panevezys has been deported to Vilnius. Although in 1945 many individuals sympathized with the government (as regards religious policy), they later became disillusioned and started to attend church again. More and more persons are going to church each year. The more the government prohibits it, the more individuals go to church. At Christmas and Easter, the churches and churchyards are so full that many have to stand in the street.
47. Nearly all Lithuanians go to the Catholic Church. The only exceptions are the very few Orthodox believers, Communists, teachers, and others who are forbidden to do so. Although no religion is officially forbidden, an employee of an office or school could not worship openly without losing his job. There are no anti-religious groups, although anti-religious propaganda is prevalent in the high schools, Houses of Culture, and over the radio. With the possible exception of the Komsomol members who are required to fight Catholicism, there are no followers of these anti-religious lines.

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48. Except for Komsomol members, most high school students go to church. The situation is difficult in the girls' high school, where girls who go to church are reported on and are later the subject of laughter. If a girl who goes to church happens to be a poor student, her inadequacy is at once attributed to the "bad influence of the church and priests," and the pupil may be expelled.

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